

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Consent Item:**

District Facility Plan: Bell County School District

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 157.420 (4), KRS 157.622, KRS 157.620, 702 KAR 4:180

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed District Facility Plan (DFP) for the above listed Kentucky school district?

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** In accordance with 702 KAR 4:180, each district must develop a local DFP at the completion of a four (4) year cycle or at the completion of an eight (8) year cycle (maximum) if the district applies for and is granted a waiver. This process provides a District Facility Plan that contains an assessment of the school district's attributes and operations including the district profile, demographic information, facility conditions, and finances (cost of delivery of services).

Local school districts are required to select a Local Planning Committee (LPC) to develop a District Facility Plan (DFP) outlining capital construction priorities.

The LPC, by virtue of its makeup, encourages both community involvement and diversity of ideas. The LPC recommends a DFP to the local board. The DFP submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is the final decision of the local board of education.

Information reviewed in developing the DFP provides the LPC with a comprehensive view of program and facility needs required to provide an equitable educational opportunity. KDE staff presents the process to be undertaken by the district in an orientation session. Information for review is then developed by the LPC and its consultants.

Each district's proposed DFP was recommended by the LPC and approved by the local board of education. KDE staff certifies that the plans presented are in accordance with 702 KAR 4:180 and, to the best of our ability to determine, are in compliance with the appropriate steps as follows: (1) LPC selection process documented; (2) review of proposed district facility plan for educational programs and curriculum, demographics, facility evaluations, adequacy of financial plan, and adequacy of square footage; (3) public forum notification through news media; (4) local board public hearing conducted; (5) local public hearing conducted with appointed hearing officer; and (6) plan submitted for KBE approval.

Department staff has also reviewed the non-resident agreements and the number of "out of

district” students in each school district affected. (This information is enclosed herein.)

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

In Standard 4 of the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement it is noted that the school’s physical environment has an impact on student achievement. Research also indicates that better facilities enhance equity (equal opportunities for all students), attitudes and retention of staff, and parental involvement.

**Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:**

Staff recommends that the KBE approve the proposed District Facility Plan for Bell County School District.

**Contact Person:**

Dr. Larry Stinson, Associate Commissioner  
Office of District Support Services  
(502) 564-3930  
[larry.stinson@education.ky.gov](mailto:larry.stinson@education.ky.gov)

Mark W. Ryles, Director  
Division of Facilities Management  
(502) 564-4326  
[mark.ryles@education.ky.gov](mailto:mark.ryles@education.ky.gov)

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**Interim Deputy Commissioner**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

April 2009